

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN). WEAAD provides an opportunity to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons.

Each year, an estimated 5 million older adults are abused, neglected or exploited. Older Americans lose an estimated \$2.6 billion or more annually to financial abuse and exploitation\*. Unfortunately, it occurs in every demographic and can happen to anyone—a family member, a neighbor, even you. It is estimated that only one in five of these crimes are discovered.

\*Administration for Community Living

### 5 Things You Can Do To Prevent Elder Abuse and Neglect:

1. Learn the signs: lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, unexplained changes in behavior such as withdrawal from normal activities, among others
2. Talk to friends and family members about how to reduce abuse and neglect with available programs through collaboration with law enforcement, community centers and public transportation
3. Prevent Isolation: Call or visit older loved ones on a regular basis to ask how they are doing
4. Provide respite breaks for caregivers
5. Be aware of significant withdrawals from the elder's bank and investment accounts as these could serve as an indicator of financial exploitation

[Link to Proclamation](#)